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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DAHM et al.

Serial No.: 09/601,645

Conf. No.: 7793 Cust. No.: 24961

Filed: August 4, 2000

For: METHOD FOR THE QUANTITATIVE

DETERMINATION OF TUMOR CELLS IN A BODY FLUID AND TEST KITS SUITABLE

THEREOF

Art Unit: 1634

Examiner: Goldberg, J.A.

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Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Kathryn Boyle

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment After Final, responsive to the Final Office Action mailed July 8, 2003, for filing in connection with the above-identified application. If a Petition for extension of time is needed, this paper is to be considered such Petition.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee, including fees for an extension of time and for the petition, that may be due in connection with this and the attached papers or with this application during its entire pendency to Deposit Account No. 50-1213. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted, / HELLER EHRMAN WHITE & McAULIFFE LLP

By:

Stephanie Seidman Registration No. 33,779

Attorney Docket No. 24741-1509US

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116 --EXPEDITED PROCEDURE--EXAMINING GROUP 1600

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dahm et al.

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Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Kathryn Boyle

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office Action mailed July 8, 2003 (the "Office Action"), and further to the telephone interview of August 25, 2003, with the Examiner, consideration of the following remarks and entry of the following Amendment, which is in accord with the Examiner's suggestions pursuant to discussions in the aforementioned interview, are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that entry of the Amendment places the application into condition for allowance, or, alternatively, reduces the number of issues for appeal by addressing specific requirements set forth by the Examiner in the Final Office Action and in the interview.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.